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Please respond to
"Oster, Katie"
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To T3@LIST.TETN.NET

cc

bcc

Subject [TEA-L] May T3 Announcements

Hello everyone,
Here are the announcements regarding T3 this month.

Let me know if I can assist you with anything.

Thanks,
Katie

TEA Evaluation Surveys

Thank you for continuing to complete the TEA T3 Evaluation Surveys. Please remember, questionnaires are provided for students, parents, teachers and administrators, and must be completed by May 31, 2011.

These surveys will become part of your evaluation. Once the surveys have been completed, TEA will aggregate the information and send you the URL to access your results. You should receive the URL to your results by June 15, 2011.

Amendments Reminder

It is time to take a critical look at your budgets to ensure all grant funds are spent by September 30, 2011. This is the closing date for Target Tech in Texas (T3) grant. Please submit any amendments in a timely manner to ensure all funds will be spent. *The last day to submit an amendment to TEA is 90 days before the ending date of the grant, June 30th.* If you wait until the last date to amend and you want to make equipment purchases, you will need to show there will be significant impact and use of that equipment during the grant period, or the amendment may not be approved. It is not uncommon for these later amendments to be disapproved for this reason. If you do amend, please remember the 25% minimum funding you need to ensure will be spent on professional development.

For speedier processing of amendments:

Fax a signed Schedule 1 – General Information; Schedule 3 – Purpose of Amendment and any other affected program or budget pages to Discretionary Grants at 512-463-9811. Call 512-463-9269 if you have trouble with your fax getting through and you will be given an alternate number to use. Be sure to use strikethroughs for deleted/changed items and underline for new items.

7th Quarter Progress Reports and Evaluation Reports

All submitted 6th Quarter Progress Reports and Evaluation Reports are in the process of being reviewed and filed. It has been exciting to learn about the progress and impact that the ARRA funding is having on your schools. Thank you for all the links to pictures, videos, lessons, professional development, and success stories, as well as describing your challenges and how TEA can assist you in the future.

Please remember that the 7th Quarter Progress Reports and Evaluation Reports are due on July 10th, 2011. They can be found attached to this email or on Project Share. Go to the T3 Grant group, then click Drop boxes, and find the "Progress Report Templates" and "Evaluation Toolkit and Files" drop boxes.

Please submit completed Progress Reports and Evaluation reports to T3@tea.state.tx.us.

Federally required State Evaluation Report coming soon

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is required to conduct a State Evaluation Report, covering Title II, Part D activities funded with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In June 2011, a template will be sent through the listserv asking for important data from each Target Tech in Texas (T3) Collaborative Grant recipient. The template will be very similar to last year's, with the removal of questions that would be unchanged information.

One report per fiscal agent/collaborative will be required with the deadline of September 30, 2011. This information will be completed by the program manager working with the external evaluator. The completed data will be compiled into a report by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and sent directly to the United States Department of Education (USDOE).

This report is mandatory and must be completed timely and completely. We really appreciate your help with this important reporting.

Low Draw Downs of ARRA Grant Funds—Important Information

Unexpended ARRA grant funds with a grant end date of September 30, 2011 will lapse in less than 6 months. Through its expenditure reporting (ER) system, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) monitors the rate at which grantees are drawing down their ARRA funds. TEA considers grantees as having low draw downs if they have expended less than 5% of a grant award per month since the NOGA start date. In this second and final year of ARRA funding, it is even more crucial that grantees review their planned use of funds in relation to the grant end date. If your organization has incurred expenditures but has not requested a draw down through ER, please submit those expenditures as soon as possible through ER and plan to regularly submit future expenditures. It is important that TEA and Texas schools publicly demonstrate that ARRA funds are being expended in accordance with congressional intent and applicable cash management guidelines. There will be no extensions for spending the ARRA T3 Grant funding.

ARRA Reporting

Keep up with the latest on ARRA Stimulus funding here:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4570>. Remember that the uses of the ARRA Title II D funds should focus on reaching the Target Tech level on the Texas Campus and Teacher STaR Charts <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/starchart>.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SXSWedu Spotlight Session Videos Available

The inaugural SXSWedu 2011 Conference on March 8th-10th was a huge success. Over 800 participants learned how Project Share is changing the way Texas educators collaborate with one another, access professional development, and impact their students' learning both in and out of the classroom.

Each day during the 3-day conference, a Spotlight Session presented the latest information about innovative efforts to bring digital learning resources into the classroom. Powerful keynote speeches by Robert Scott, Commissioner of Education, and Anita Givens, Associate Commissioner of Standards and Programs, as well as an engaging panel of Texas superintendents moderated by Evan Smith of *The Texas Tribune* are now available on the Project Share website www.projectsharetexas.org. As an added bonus, viewers will enjoy an inspiring student panel preceding Commissioner Scott's presentation.

Project Share Background

Project Share is an online environment that gives educators the ability to join professional learning communities (PLCs), participate in professional development courses, explore content repositories, and use online instructional materials. The first state-adopted online instructional materials, which can be accessed by all Texas public high school teachers, are now available through the Project Share platform. Be sure to check the Project Share website <http://www.projectsharetexas.org> to see the new PBS message and the latest Project Share tutorial -- *Getting Started in Project Share* .

Professional Development (PD) Courses Now Available through Project Share

Teachers may now complete online PD courses through Project Share. Eligible teachers who successfully complete courses are able to earn continuing professional education (CPE) credits. A new Course Catalog is available on the Project Share website – <http://www.projectsharetexas.org/educators.html>. Contact your local education service center (ESC) to learn more about current and future Project Share course offerings. Math (MSTAR and Algebra I EOC Success) and science (K-12 Science TEKS Overview) courses are now available through all ESCs. Other courses, including Expository Reading and Writing in High School and English Language Proficiency Standards courses for math, science, ELA, and social studies, will continue to be made available.

SBOE Approves Standards for New Technology Courses

Because of the changing nature of computer science and the digital environment, the State Board of Education today gave final approval to a substantial revision and expansion of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications for kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as to 13 high school courses.

The new curriculum standards will be implemented in 2012 -2013. These replace standards in use in Texas classrooms since 1998. Because of the evolving and expanding nature of technology, the board is considering ultimately expanding the number of high school level technology application classes from the current eight to a total of 19.

Some of the new courses for which curriculum standards were approved today are Robotics Programming and Development, Game Programming and Design, Mobile Application Development, and Digital Design and Media Production. A timeline for posting the approved courses reflecting the adopted TEKS, should be available early this summer.

The board delayed adopting standards for six high school courses until July so the board members could continue to review and consider input they received during the public comment period. Those courses are Fundamentals of Computer Science; Computer Science I, II, III; Discrete Mathematics; and Web Game Development.

All the Technology Application TEKS are organized around six strands: creativity and innovation; communications and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving

and decision making; digital citizenship; and technology operations and concepts.

More information about the curriculum standards update is available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=8192>.

Allotment Funds Available for Summer 2011 TxVSN Courses

Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) allotment funding is available for grades 9-12 supplemental online courses taken through the TxVSN during summer 2011. Summer school enrollment is currently open for core curriculum courses that are in high demand, languages other than English, some enrichment and elective courses. For more information about TxVSN summer school options, see the Letter to the Administrator Addressed from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/stanprog040111.html>. The statewide TXVSN course catalog is available at www.txvsn.org.

Allotment Funds Available for Middle School Students

Effective with the spring 2011 semester, the state virtual school allotment is available for eighth grade students to advance into high school courses offered through the TxVSN. The allotment funding will be available for eligible eighth grades students during summer 2011. Go to www.txvsn.org to register for courses and read the Letter to the Administrator Addressed from the TEA for more information.

TxVSN Professional Development Center

The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) Professional Development Center, for all educators involved in online learning, is now open at <http://pd.txvsn.org/>.

Come learn about the different components of the center. Live and recorded, informative and engaging training *Webinars* pertaining to topics, tools, and skills for implementing and supporting an online learning initiative are available. *Tutorials will be provided to support implementation and ongoing maintenance for educators and students involved in online learning* highlighting “Mentoring the Online Student”, “Orientation to Online Learning” and “Study Skills” tutorials. Opportunities to share ideas and get inspiration from other online learning directed individuals are available in the *Collaborations* area. Also, take a look at the abundance of *Media and Internet Resources* covering a wide variety of topics, tools, and skills to be reviewed and used over and over again.

Speaks VOLumes Conference Invitation

Please join the Texas Virtual School Network team for the first annual “speaks VOLumes” conference on August 2-5, 2011. This virtual online learning conference will provide educators the opportunity to exchange ideas, resources, and best practices in online education. Offered in a blended format, conference participants may attend virtually each day via an internet accessible computer or face-to-face on August 4th at Harris County Department of Education.

The “speaks VOLumes” conference is sponsored by the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN); as a result, there is no fee for participation.

Other advantages to participation include:

- Opportunity to learn K-12 online learning strategies from national experts as well practitioners.
- Sessions for teachers, local campus staff, and district administrative staff offered.
- Sessions are recorded for anytime viewing through Project Share and/or the TxVSN Professional Development Center.

- Continuing Professional Education (CPE) documentation available.
- No travel necessary and no substitutes needed for those participating virtually.
- No cost to participants.

For more information or to learn how you can be a presenter at this conference, please visit
<http://pd.txvsn.org>.

Speaks VOLumes Conference Volunteers Needed

The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) is seeking volunteers for their **Speaks VOLumes Conference**, August 2-5, 2011. All necessary presentation setups will be done for you. For more information visit:
<http://pd.txvsn.org/mod/data/view.php?id=1428>

For more information visit: <http://pd.txvsn.org/course/view.php?id=32>
speaks VOLumes 2011 promises to deliver with timely topics and engaging speakers sure to have an immediate impact on the work you do every day.



T3 Eval Report #7.doc



T3ProgressReportQ7.docx